



Jim,

The results of Seattle's City Council election are almost final, with very few votes left to count. None of the outcomes will change as these final votes are tabulated. Final certification of the election will occur on Tuesday, November 26.

Overall, this was not the outcome we worked for. As the primary election results and polls showed, we were poised to win in at least four of the seven districts, and possibly five. The voters of Seattle by a large margin were [demanding change](#) and the candidates [People for Seattle](#) supported were positioned to create that change.

Our message was clear and compelling: elect pragmatic progressives who would govern with a strong focus on accountability, transparency, and effectiveness. New leaders who would listen well to all of the people of Seattle and craft solutions to our most urgent challenges—homelessness, transportation, economic and environmental sustainability, the education of our children, and neighborhood safety.

Our candidates were doing well, especially in Districts 3, 4, 6, and 7. Our polling showed we were poised to win in those districts.

And then the overarching theme or narrative of the election changed. Amazon's donation of \$1 million to the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, a donation made at the same time ballots were being mailed to voters, dominated voter's attention.

Almost overnight, our local election changed from a compelling argument for change at the City Council to a national referendum on the role of corporate influence. Presidential

candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren weighed in with commentary on the Amazon donation. Sanders sent multiple text messages to his Seattle supporters in the closing days of the campaign urging them to vote against the Amazon supported candidates.

People for Seattle did not accept any business or corporate donations; only contributions from individuals.

Our endorsed candidates felt this change as they doorbelled and met with voters. Our tracking polls showed it, too. Support for our candidates dropped.

Nowhere was this abrupt change more evident than in District 3 where Egan Orion was leading Kshama Sawant 54% to 45.6% on election night when the first vote tallies were posted. Since that first count, Orion's victory margin was erased and Sawant was reelected. Voter turnout in District 3 is nearly 60% which is an unprecedented participation by voters in an off-year municipal election. The late surge of votes was a reaction to Amazon's donation. Don't take our word for it. Watch this analysis of the election at [Civic Cocktail on the Seattle Channel](#).

While we are disappointed, **People for Seattle** is not going away. We will work with the Mayor and the new City Council to reinforce that the voters of Seattle want a different approach and better results.

Voters want less conflict and shouting and more effective, pragmatic solutions to our problems. Voters want results, not grandstanding. They want collaboration. They want our political leaders to bridge divides for the benefit of all of the people of Seattle. They want good, effective government.

Thank you for your participation in this important and historic election. What we did achieve was to reinforce the voters' demand for more accountability and better results from the City Council.

As the work of **People for Seattle** progresses, we promise to keep you informed and ask for your input and assistance.

Sincerely,  
People for Seattle

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*No candidate authorized this communication. It is paid for by People for Seattle, PO Box 21622, Seattle, WA 98111. Top five contributors: John Stanton, Tom Alberg, Christopher Larson, Terry Gillespie, Margaret Walker.*

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